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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):  
**MALLINCKRODT INC.** [US/US]; 675 McDonnell  
Boulevard, P.O. Box 5840, St. Louis, MO 63134 (US).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **LIANG, Sidney**  
[US/US]; 1325 Arrowhead Drive, Olivette, MO 63132  
(US).
- (74) Agents: **BOONE, Jeffrey, S. et al.**; 675 McDonnell Boule-  
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(54) Title: IMPROVED PROCESS FOR PREPARING BENZHYDRYLTHIOACETAMIDE

(57) Abstract: The present invention is directed to an improved process for preparing modafinil wherein benzhydrylthioacetamide is prepared in high yield and purity by the reaction of a haloacetamide with the reaction product of thiourea and benzhydrol in aqueous solution. The reaction employing the haloacetamide is conducted in a solvent comprising water and an organic solvent such as dimethylformamide having dissolved therein a basic salt such as potassium carbonate. The resulting benzhydrylthioacetamide can be oxidized to provide the pharmaceutical modafinil.



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